

READ THE PASSAGE Think about which details are facts and which tell how someone thinks or feels.

The Lake on Top of a Mountain

Imagine a lake as blue as the summer sky, surrounded by thousands of pine trees and towering mountains. It sounds like something from a storybook, but Lake Tahoe is a real place in the Sierra Nevada mountains, along the border of California and Nevada.

Lake Tahoe is the best spot for camping, skiing, sailing, fishing, and hiking. In fact, people come during every season to enjoy the lake and mountains. However, Lake Tahoe is best known for its snow sports. Most of the small towns surrounding Lake Tahoe have lodges where families can go to ski or snowboard. These resorts are much more fun to stay at than the ones in other parts of the country.

Thousands of people visit Lake Tahoe each year, but the area was popular long before California and Nevada were even states. Native Americans from the Washoe (WASH-oh) tribe traveled through the mountains and spent their summers at Lake Tahoe. In fact, the name *Tahoe* comes from a Washoe word meaning "big water." The Washoe were expert hunters who used the land and water for their food supply. They even created many legends about the lake. The best one is about a giant bird-like monster that lived in the middle of the lake and ate people!

While people now use Lake Tahoe mostly for fun, it is still important to keep the water and land clean. California and Nevada work together to make sure these natural resources are used wisely. It would be terrible if the lake and mountains became too polluted for everyone to enjoy. There is no place as beautiful or fun for a vacation as Lake Tahoe.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. What are two opinions stated in the second paragraph?

2. Write three facts about Lake Tahoe.

3. What is the author's favorite Washoe legend? How do you know?

STRATEGY PRACTICE Underline two sentences from the passage that you might find in a book about Lake Tahoe's history.